

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9601

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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CINCLANT

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CINCLANT FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: SOVIET PAPER SAYS U.S. POLICIES IN ANGOLA "EXPANSIONIST"

1. SUMMARY. THE SECOND-LINE SOVIET NEWSPAPER SOVIETSKAYA ROSSIYA HAS ACCUSED THE U.S. OF ATTEMPTING TO IMPLEMENT "EXPANSIONIST MILITARY-STRATEGIC PLANS" VIS-A-VIS ANGOLA. THE LANGUAGE IS AMONG THE SHARPEST WE HAVE SEEN--BUT SIGNIFICANTLY IS NOT AS YET CARRIED IN PRAVDA, IZVESTIYA, OR KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. END SUMMARY.

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2. THE ARTICLE IS IN THE FORM OF A TASS REPORT DATE-

LINED WASHINGTON, AND PURPORTS TO REPORT ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ELLSWORTH'S TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE SUB-COMMITTEE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS. THE LEAD LINE IS "THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS STRIVING TO WIDEN US INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA," AND THE CONCLUDING LINE "AS ELLSWORTH'S STATEMENT ONCE AGAIN SHOWS, ACTIVITIES BY THE U.S. IN ANGOLA ARE NOT AT ALL DETERMINED BY PEACEFUL INTENTIONS AND THE DESIRE TO "HELP" THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE, AS AMERICAN LEADERS (RUKOVO-DITELYI) ASSERT, BUT RATHER BY EXPANSIONIST MILITARY-STRATEGIC PLANS." BETWEEN THESE TWO PUNCH LINES THE ARTICLE ASSERTS THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY ELLSWORTH ADVOCATED IN HIS TESTIMONY ADDITIONAL AID TO UNITA AND FNLA IN ORDER TO WIN FOR THE U.S. OVERFLIGHT AND LANDING RIGHTS IN ANGOLA, AS WELL AS NAVAL PORT RIGHTS AT ANGOLAN PORTS.

3. OTHER COVERAGE IN THE CENTRAL PRESS ON ANGOLA EMPHASIZES THE MPLA'S CONTINUING SUCCESSFUL OFFENSIVE "ON ALL FRONTS." PRAVDA REPORTS THAT A BAND OF 600 MERCENARIES HAVE BEEN THROWN BACK ACROSS THE BORDER INTO ZAIRE AFTER ATTEMPTING TO MOVE ONTO ANGOLAN TERRITORY, AND THAT REGULAR SOUTH AFRICAN UNITS AND MERCENARIES ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THE BATTLE ON THE SOUTHERN FRONT, WHERE THE MPLA IS BLOCKADING SEVERAL MAIN CITIES, INCLUDING HUAMBO. A SEPARATE TASS PIECE REPORTS ON SEKOU TOURE'S MESSAGE TO THE AAPSO CONFERENCE IN LUANDA, IN WHICH HE ALLEGEDLY PRAISED SOVIET AND OTHER COMMUNIST ASSISTANCE TO THE MPLA.

4. COMMENT: THE SOVIETSKAYA ROSSIYA PIECE IS OBVIOUSLY AN ATTEMPT TO REPAY THE U.S. IN ITS OWN CURRENCY FOR THE SECRETARY'S DESCRIPTION OF SOVIET EXPANSIONISM. THE SOVIETS HAVE SHOWN SOME RESTRAINT, HOWEVER, IN LIMITING PUBLICATION OF THE PIECE TO A LESS AUTHORITATIVE NEWSPAPER--AT LEAST UP TO THIS POINT.
STOESSEL

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